

118th Congress to file reports during the adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend Rule XVI, pursuant to Rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, with proposed amendments shall be printed.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 118th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate passed bills and joint resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments to House bills or resolutions.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 118th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 118th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the say when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive executive session that day.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 118th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 118th Congress, Senators may be allowed to send to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. If the Senator-elect from Oklahoma will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the President pro tempore; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO DAMAR HAMLIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a joyful and celebratory day, but I would like to begin on a serious note and offer my prayers and best

wishes to Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin and his family.

What happened last night was one of the most horrifying things I have ever seen watching football, and I watch a lot of it. We are all rooting and praying for his recovery.

Damar, we are with you every step of the way in spirit. You make us proud. We can't wait to see you up and healthy again soon.

118TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, let me begin by wishing you and all of my colleagues a happy new year. It is good to see everyone as we observe this special, joyful, and solemn day.

Today marks the beginning of the 118th Congress. It is the start of a new chapter in the grand history of this Chamber, a moment for renewal, reflection, and rededication.

For those going through this process for the first time, days like this can seem overwhelming, almost like the first day of school, but beneath the celebrations and receptions, a solemn truth permeates everything we do today: We are here because the American people have entrusted us to represent their needs in this great body.

Today is historic for many reasons. First, let me congratulate all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have just been sworn in, especially my newest Democratic colleagues, PETER WELCH of Vermont and JOHN FETTERMAN of Pennsylvania.

I commend all of you for this immense honor, and I challenge each of you as a friend and a colleague not to let this opportunity go to waste. I will challenge myself for that as well because ours is truly an awesome responsibility. And I mean "awesome" in the Biblical sense—not in the way my teenage daughters used to say it but the kind of awe that would cause the angels to tremble before God. This responsibility is indeed awesome. In our hands lie the trust, the wishes, the hopes, and the burdens of the American people. It is the most brave charge but a rewarding one if done right.

I want to recognize another Member making history today. My friend from Washington State, Senator PATTY MURRAY, will become the newest President pro tempore, the first woman in the history of the Senate to hold this title. There is no one I trust more to be third in the line of Presidential succession than Senator MURRAY. She is brilliant, pragmatic, and someone who gets things done in this Chamber.

Congratulations also to my friend the Republican leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, on now becoming the longest serving party leader in the history of this Chamber.

We have a lot of work ahead of us. So I hope we can find some ways to come together—and not succumb to gridlock—for the good of this Chamber and for the good of our country.

Of course, I want to thank all of my Democratic colleagues for trusting me

with 2 more years as leader. There is no group I would rather work with than this amazing caucus. You are not just my colleagues; you are my friends.

With only 50 votes, ranging from JOE MANCHIN to BERNIE SANDERS, we made history these last 2 years by passing the most ambitious legislative agenda in decades, since at least the Great Society and perhaps the New Deal.

All Members, whether returning to Congress or retiring, can feel proud about what we have accomplished in the last 2 years. And let's not forget—and I say this in good part to my Republican colleagues—that five of our six major bills last year were bipartisan.

And I am proud to be making some history of my own today. Today, I have the great honor of becoming the longest serving Senator from New York, the first New Yorker ever elected to the Senate five times. To every single New Yorker who trusted me with another term as Senator, thank you.

And my mentor and former colleague Pat Moynihan taught me that you have to dream big to properly serve the people of New York, and I have tried to do that every day in office: visiting each of the 62 counties every year, meeting as many people as possible, and listening to as many New Yorkers as I can. My beloved mentor Senator Moynihan served four terms. So to be elected to a fifth term is humbling, awe-inspiring, and it energizes me to keep going and keep delivering. So thank you, New York, for this honor, and you can be sure that every day I get up in the morning, I will give it my all to fight and deliver for you.

But, of course, I cannot do it alone. Today, I want to thank all of my staff, whose relentless and determination are only matched by their talent and deep love for this country. Though impossible to name all of them, I must single out one in particular, one of the very best: Steve Mann, my deputy State director. He came down today to watch me get sworn in as the longest serving Senator from New York, and, when I do, Steve Mann will have some history to celebrate on his own, as he claims the mantle of the longest serving Senate staffer I have ever had. He started with me right from the very beginning.

Steve is everything you would want in a staffer: hard-working, loyal, caring, and a Yankee fan. But, unfortunately, he is also a Cowboys fan. Not everyone is perfect, as I remind him about the Cowboys.

Kidding aside, Steve, a Rensselaer, NY, native, took a chance on me years ago when I first ran for office, and he never looked back. Though both of our job titles have evolved over the years, one has remained: friend.

To my newly arriving colleagues, I hope all of you, one day, can have a Steve Mann working with you, and if you are lucky enough, maybe yours, too, will become a dear friend.

Finally, I cannot forget the most important people in my life. Here with me

is my wife Iris and my daughters Jessica and Alison, Alison's wife Biz, and—he kept quiet during the swearing in; I was very relieved—my 4-year-old grandson, Noah. They are part of my greater family, and they are my biggest supporters, motivators, and the unsung heroes of my life. And though he is no longer with us, I know my dad is looking down smiling today. We miss him every single day, but I know he is right here with us in spirit.

Now, Madam President, now is the time to set our sights on the future. As we begin the 118th Congress, this Senate Democratic majority enters the new year in a stronger position than anyone ever expected. We have a lot of challenges ahead, but this majority is ready to meet them. We will be relentless, flexible, and work with the other side to get things done. It won't be easy moving forward under a divided government, but after everything we have accomplished with an evenly split Senate and a narrowly divided House, there is no reason we can't keep the streak going moving forward.

Let's not forget, as I mentioned, that five of our six major bills last year were done on a bipartisan basis. So let me say it again. After everything we have accomplished in an evenly divided Senate and a narrowly divided House, there is no reason both sides can't keep working together for the good of our beloved country.

That doesn't mean we will agree all the time or even much of the time. It doesn't mean we will ignore our differences or compromise on our values. We won't do that. But party differences do not absolve either side of the need to work together when the good of the country is on the line. If both sides are willing to give it a good-faith effort, I am optimistic that we can be successful, far more successful than many might think.

After all, Madam President, if you said 2 years ago that a 50-50 Senate would finish as one of the most successful since the Great Society, the naysayers would have said that is crazy talk. They would have said a 50-50 Senate is doomed to languish in gridlock.

But let's take a look at everything we accomplished over the last 2 years and be proud of it. With no margin for error, this majority enacted the historic Inflation Reduction Act and confirmed the most diverse collection of judges—97 in total—in American history.

With bipartisan support, we enacted a historic infrastructure bill. After decades of trying, both sides passed the first gun safety bill in over 30 years. We approved the CHIPS and Science Act, passed the PACT Act, and stood with our friends in Ukraine. And just a few weeks ago, both sides worked together to enact marriage equality and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act—all of this done in an equally divided Senate, all of this done with a narrowly divided House.

So I hope we can continue to get things done, even with a narrowly controlled Republican House. For whom ever ends up becoming Speaker of the House, I hope they will find a way to work with us in a productive way this Congress. Senate Democrats are ready to reach across the aisle and across the Capitol to accomplish big things that will benefit all Americans.

So, to close, Madam President, after everything we have accomplished over the last 2 years, America is stronger, healthier, and better prepared for the future thanks to the Senate working together, and we must continue. If Republicans are willing to work with us in the new year, they will be met with an open hand. If they are willing to come to the table, we will sit right down and do the difficult work of legislating for the people. And if they are willing to set their sights on making our country better together, there is no reason why the successes of the last 2 years need to end today.

There is much that we should be proud of from the 117th Congress. There is much we can be hopeful for in the 118th. Let us, therefore, begin the work anew, mindful of the challenges to come but determined, without ceasing, to reward the trust the American people have placed in us.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING MIKE MANSFIELD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last November, my Republican colleagues reelected me to another 2-year term serving our conference as leader.

The greatest honor of my career is representing the Commonwealth of Kentucky in this Chamber and fighting for my fellow Kentuckians, but the second greatest honor is the trust that my fellow Republican Senators have placed in me to lead our diverse conference and help them achieve their goals.

As I begin my ninth Congress serving my colleagues in this role, I find myself looking back over some of the remarkable statesmen who have come before. Designated party floor leaders have been a feature of the Senate for more than 100 years, and no two have done the job exactly alike.

Some notable leaders have built influence through bookish mastery of procedure—for example, Massachusetts Republican Henry Cabot Lodge and West Virginia Democrat Robert Byrd.

Other leaders are remembered less for parliamentary wizardry than for tackle football. Joseph Taylor Robinson of Arkansas delivered much of the New Deal through the Senate for F.D.R., with a lively repertoire that included cutting deals, red-faced rants, pounding his desk, and almost ending up in fisticuffs here on the floor.

When Robinson died of a heart attack, Roosevelt's pick to fill the vacancy was Kentucky Senator Alben Barkley. Even with that endorsement, Barkley only won his first election as leader by one vote, in part because Senate Democrats worried the President's handpicked man might actually have mixed loyalties. But Barkley won his colleagues' trust. In 1944, when he dramatically resigned during a showdown with the White House over tax policy, his conference reinstalled him on a unanimous vote the very next day.

Then there was our late friend and colleague Bob Dole of Kansas, a sharp competitor who excelled both at partisan combat and bipartisan compromise—plus, as we all know, had a wicked sense of humor.

The Texas Democrat Lyndon Johnson was a towering interpersonal force and master of relationships. The Ohio Republican Robert Taft had been more introverted and cerebral. He was a master of policy. But each was a strong force and a powerful thorn in the side of the opposite-party administrations.

Then there have been leaders who rose to the job through lower key, behind-the-scenes styles, and that, Madam President, is how Senator Michael Joseph Mansfield of Montana became the longest serving Senate leader in American history until today. The highest ranking Federal official Montana has ever produced wasn't actually born under the "Big Sky." When Mike Mansfield's mother died early, this young son of Irish immigrants was put on a train from New York City to family in Great Falls, MT.

Though Mansfield would later be famous as a Senate leader who didn't bully his colleagues, apparently, young Mike first tried a different approach. A brief trial run as a self-appointed schoolyard bully ended when a bigger boy supplied some humility right to his nose. At age 14, standing all of 5 feet 4 inches, he successfully used doctored documents to join the Navy. Soon after, he migrated to the Army, instead, and, soon after that, the Marines, which took Mansfield to the Philippines and the coast of China.

After that, back in Montana, Mansfield worked in copper mines as a mucker. This was touchy work, in a dangerous underground environment, with dynamite everywhere and few exit routes. Eventually, Mike left the grueling work to pursue school, but not before the mines had taught him enduring lessons about caution and about prudence.

First came college, then graduate studies, continuing a fascination with Asia. But Mike soon exchanged the faculty lounge for elected office. He lost his first race to represent Montana's First District in 1940, but he won both the primary and the general in 1942, after the incumbent Republican Jeanette Rankin had cast the only vote against war with Japan after Pearl Harbor.

The war gave Congress's newest Asia expert immediate relevance. Speaker